

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

*o Question for the Record Response*

*DEA has no activities which meet the House Resolution 658 definition of intelligence and intelligence related activities. All of DEA's foreign and domestic collection, analysis, production and use of information is concerned with illicit drug production and trafficking for law enforcement purposes.*

DOJ Review Completed.



179-3898/1

Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

April 20, 1979

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4-25-79

Admiral Stansfield Turner  
Director, Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner: .

In response to a request from your Intelligence Community staff, the Department of Justice considered two issues concerning the relationship between the Intelligence Community and the Drug Enforcement Administration in the narcotics intelligence field. The two issues raised by the Intelligence Community staff were:

1. The degree to which DEA's overseas activities should be considered "foreign intelligence" under the regulatory framework of Executive Order 12036.
2. Whether a portion of DEA's resources should be included in the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP) budget process.

As a result of a review of these issues, I join the Administrator of DEA in concluding that the Department of Justice considers DEA's overseas activities to be primarily criminal intelligence, integrally related to the performance of DEA's law enforcement role. Thus the Department of Justice does not accept the concept that DEA's overseas activities are foreign intelligence as defined in E.O. 12036. \*

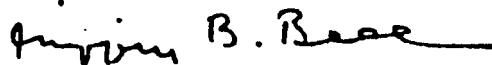
Second, it is my position that none of DEA's resources should be included in either the NFIP or the non-defense Intelligence Related Activities program. ✓

I reach these conclusions because of my commitment to the principle that the Attorney General should retain full policy control and oversight responsibility for DEA's overseas activities, rather than bringing the Director of Central Intelligence into this role.

Nonetheless, I have encouraged DEA to continue its efforts at working with the Intelligence Community to ensure that any foreign intelligence by-product of DEA's criminal intelligence should be provided to the Intelligence Community in the most effective and efficient form. DEA Administrator Peter Bensinger and I will welcome any suggestions that you might have for improving the coordination between DEA and the Intelligence Community.

Of course, DEA will continue to participate, where appropriate, in the National Foreign Intelligence Board structure. DEA will also continue to serve in a lead role in the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumer Committee, which has proven a useful device thus far for (setting) narcotics intelligence requirements and priorities, and developing national narcotics intelligence estimates.

Sincerely,



Griffin B. Bell  
Attorney General

cc: Peter Bensinger, Administrator  
Drug Enforcement Administration